

# PROGRESS REPORT: CALIFORNIA ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) INITIATIVE

JULY 2015

Since November 2012, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) have been working with the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) to identify and address a backlog of abandoned or improperly closed Underground Storage Tanks (USTs).

## Next Phase of the Initiative: UST Gauge & Pump Pilot Program

After taking regulatory action, conducting investigative research, and providing one-on-one property owner outreach, the State Water Board and UPAs have obtained compliance at 205 out of the 342 Abandoned UST Sites. USTs remain out of compliance at 137 sites categorized by property owner cooperation (see chart below). The next phase of the Initiative will involve conducting field visits at selected sites to gauge the tanks to determine if product is present, measure product, and then pump out the tanks.

In July 2015, the UST Gauge & Pump Pilot Program was launched with San Bernardino County and Kern County to test a field approach for efficiently gauging and pumping tanks. Both counties have already committed resources to resolving their abandoned UST sites, together obtaining compliance at 18 facilities.

Twenty-four sites remain in these counties where abandoned

USTs either have product or the contents are unknown.

These sites are a top priority for the Initiative. The UPAs are working closely with U.S. EPA's contractor to conduct inspections, gauge tanks, and compile site-specific information to facilitate tank pumping activities. Tank pumping will be prioritized based on potential threats to sensitive populations and water resources.

Tank gauging and pumping activities will shift to sites overseen by other UPAs after San Bernardino and Kern Counties are addressed.

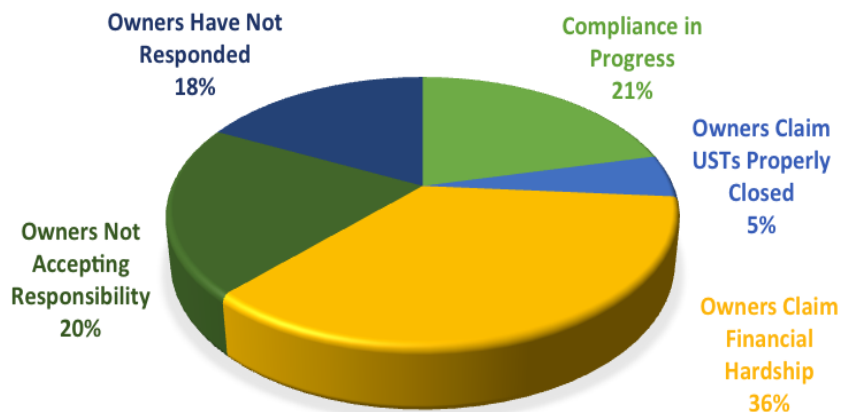
The State Water Board will develop a separate strategy to address Out of Compliance sites with empty tanks.

**205 sites have come into compliance, including the removal or closure of 159 USTs!**

**The State Water Board is working with U.S. EPA and the UPAs on site-specific strategies for the 137 sites remaining Out of Compliance.**



## SITE CATEGORY: OUT OF COMPLIANCE



## Achieving Compliance

As of June 30, 2015, the Abandoned UST Initiative:

- ◆ Obtained **compliance at 60%** of the 342 Abandoned Underground Storage Tank (UST) sites. See reverse for graph of progress and **Figures 1-5** for maps.
- ◆ **Removed or closed 159 USTs** at 70 sites.
- ◆ Issued **191 Notices of Non-Compliance** and followed up with **133 Notices of Violation** (129 letters reissued).
- ◆ Obtained **access to 25 sites**, where tank surveys may be performed to locate, gauge, and remove product remaining in the tanks.
- ◆ Issued **124 courtesy follow-up letters** offering free one-on-one consultations to owners.

An **updated inventory** and other information is available at: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/abandoned\\_storage.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/abandoned_storage.shtml)

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## Partnering on Redevelopment

The Iglesia de Dios Israelita site is located in South Los Angeles, an environmental justice priority area. The site is owned by a church, and when the property was purchased, they did not realize there were 2 USTs that needed to be removed. In April 2015, U.S. EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program conducted a site assessment, including the removal of the two USTs. The church plans to convert the property into a youth center with academic and recreational programs.

The TBA Program accepted 2 other Abandoned UST sites in the past year, one in Fresno County and the other in Los Angeles County.



## Workshop for Property Owners

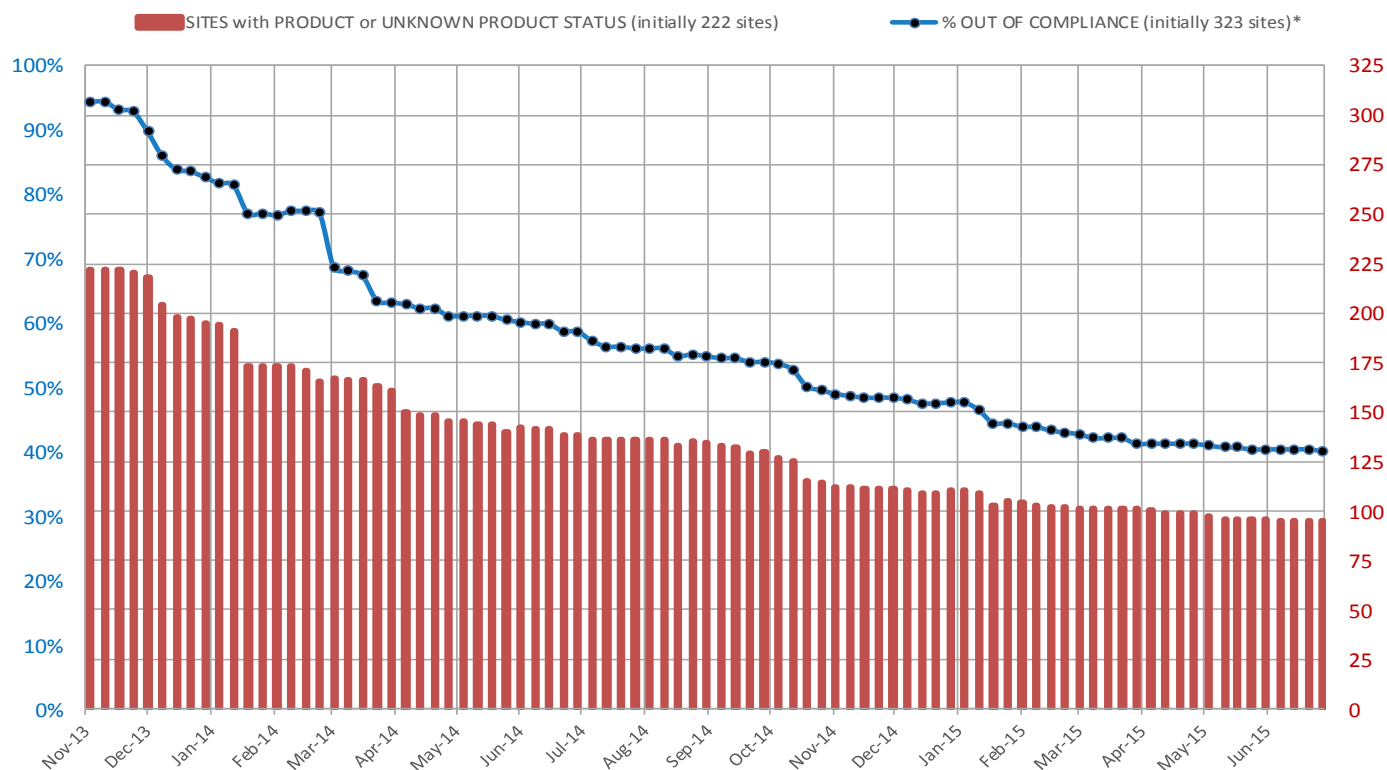


The State Water Board and U.S. EPA organized a Tank Removal Workshop for 18 property owners in December 2014, at Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Laura Fisher of the State Water Board gave an overview of the Initiative and discussed available State resources, while Joe Baiocco (Los Angeles County), Jose May and Greg Beach (both of San Bernardino County) described enforcement repercussions for non-compliance.

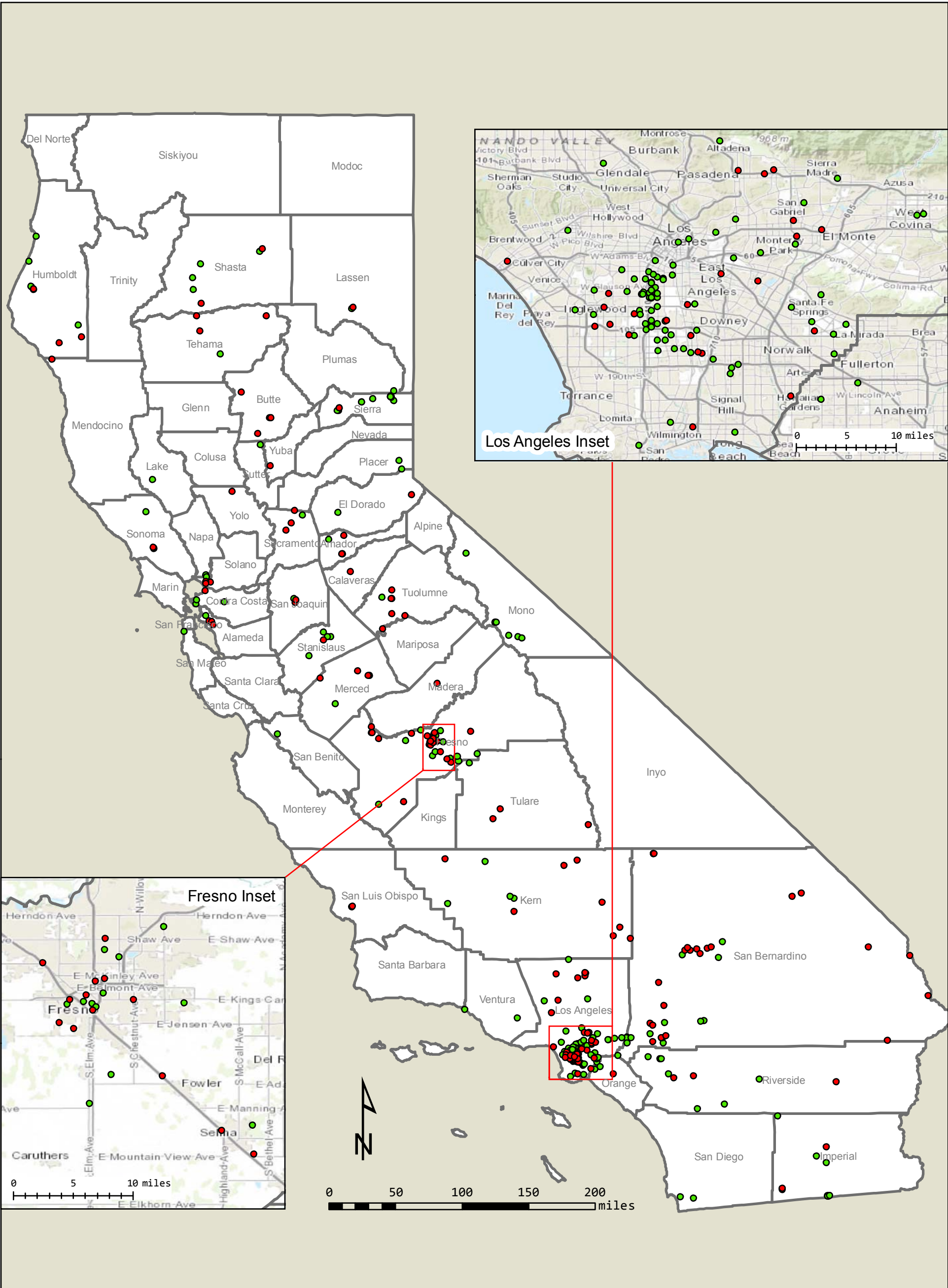
Participants broke into small groups to learn about funding programs. Since the workshop, 2 property owners applied to the Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF) and 2 property owners applied to the Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading Storage Tank (RUST) Loan and Grant Programs.

## Abandoned UST Sites - Compliance Status



\*Initial Abandoned UST site inventory in April 2013 included 323 sites. As of November 2013, Out of Compliance sites had already fallen to 305 sites. Nineteen additional sites were reported by UPAs in 2013-2014 for a total of 342 sites -- UPAs report additional sites as inspectors discover evidence of USTs, or after tank owners allow permits to lapse without seeking closure. The 19 "new" Out of Compliance sites reported make up 5.6% of the total site inventory tracked (342 sites).

Prepared by Redhorse Corporation, a U.S. EPA contractor working on behalf of the State Water Board.



Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (205)

Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (137)\*

California County Boundary

Notes:

\*Includes 1 abandoned underground storage tank (UST) site where further investigation is needed to confirm presence of USTs.

There were originally 323 Abandoned UST Sites reported by the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs). Nineteen additional sites were reported by the UPAs after the original inventory was created.

County Boundary Source: United States Census Bureau

Basemap Source (Fresno & Los Angeles maps): Esri

Prepared as part of Cooperative Agreement L-99T11601 between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9 and the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) utilizing Interagency Agreement DW96958588 between USEPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

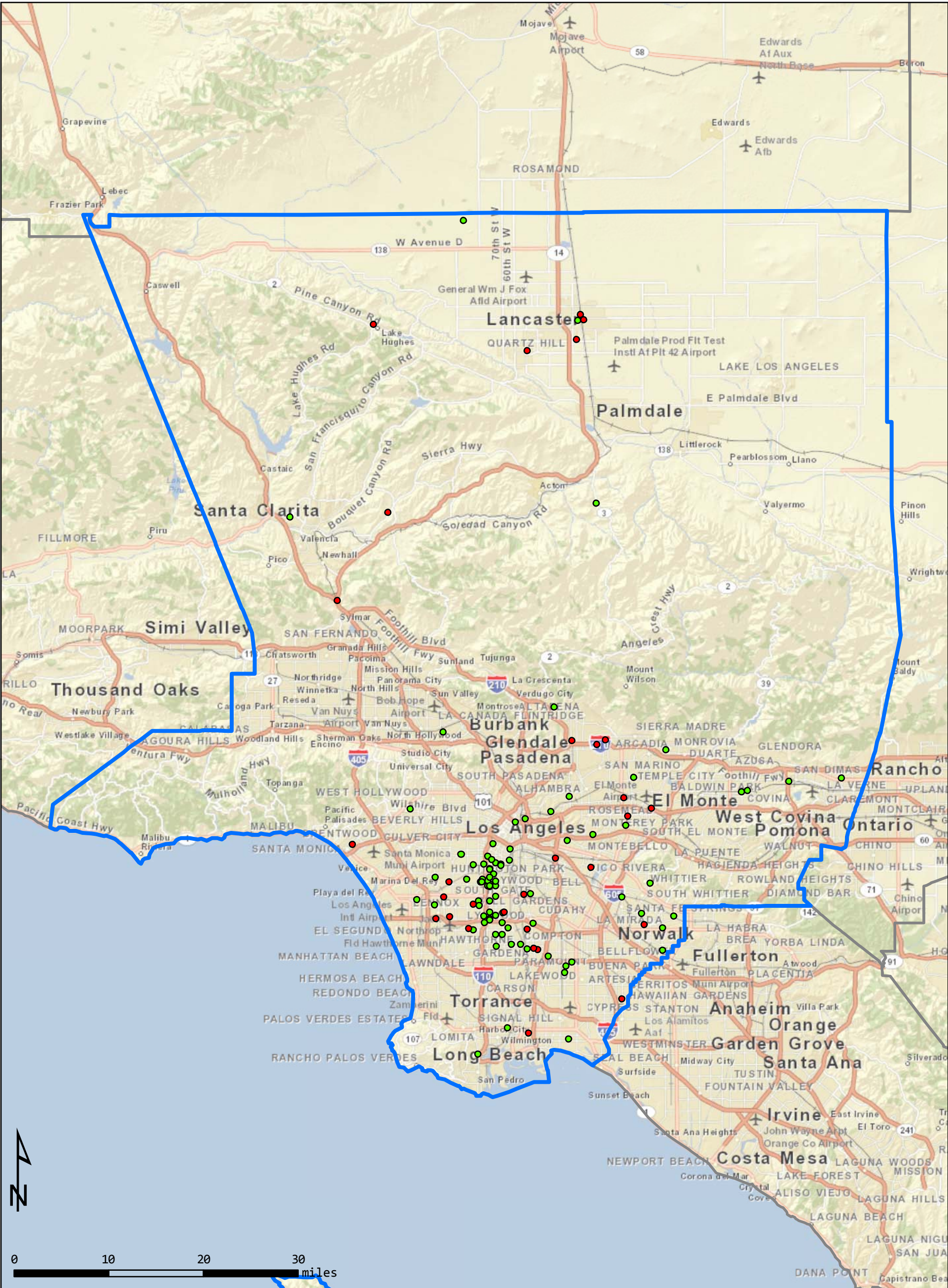
**FIGURE 1**

**California Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks--342 Sites**

**July 2015**

Prepared by Sullivan International Group, Inc.





- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (84)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (30)
- Los Angeles County Boundary
- Other California County Boundary

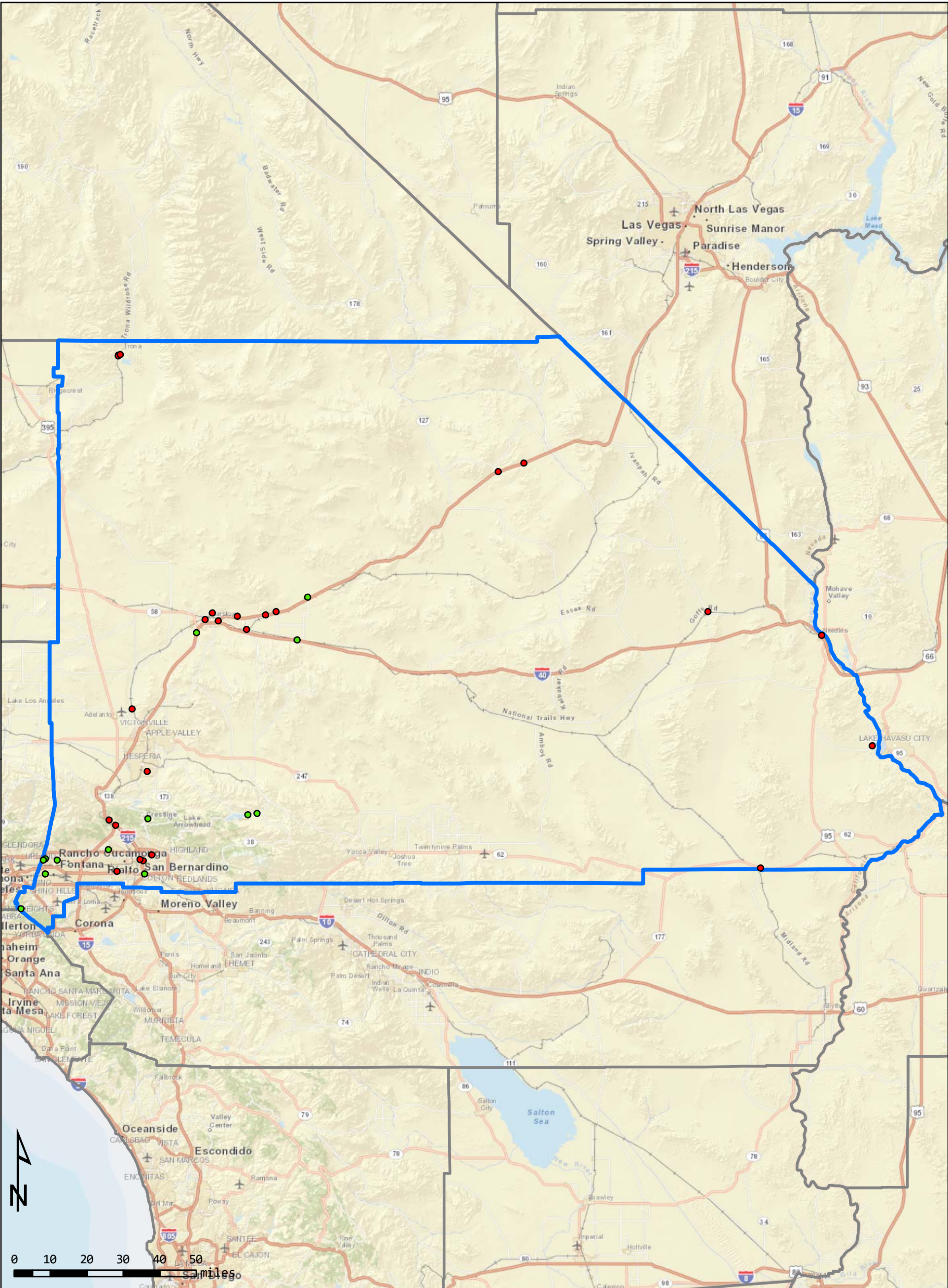
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Notes:  
Includes all sites reported by Unified Program Agencies with jurisdiction in Los Angeles County.  
Basemap Source: Esri  
County Boundary Source: United States Census Bureau

**FIGURE 2**  
**Los Angeles County Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks--114 Sites**

**July 2015**





- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (14)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (23)\*
- San Bernardino County Boundary
- Other California County Boundary

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Notes:  
\*Includes 1 abandoned underground storage tank (UST) site where further investigation is needed to confirm presence of USTs.  
  
Basemap Source: Esri  
  
County Boundary Source: United States Census Bureau

**FIGURE 3**

**San Bernardino County Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks--37 Sites**

**July 2015**





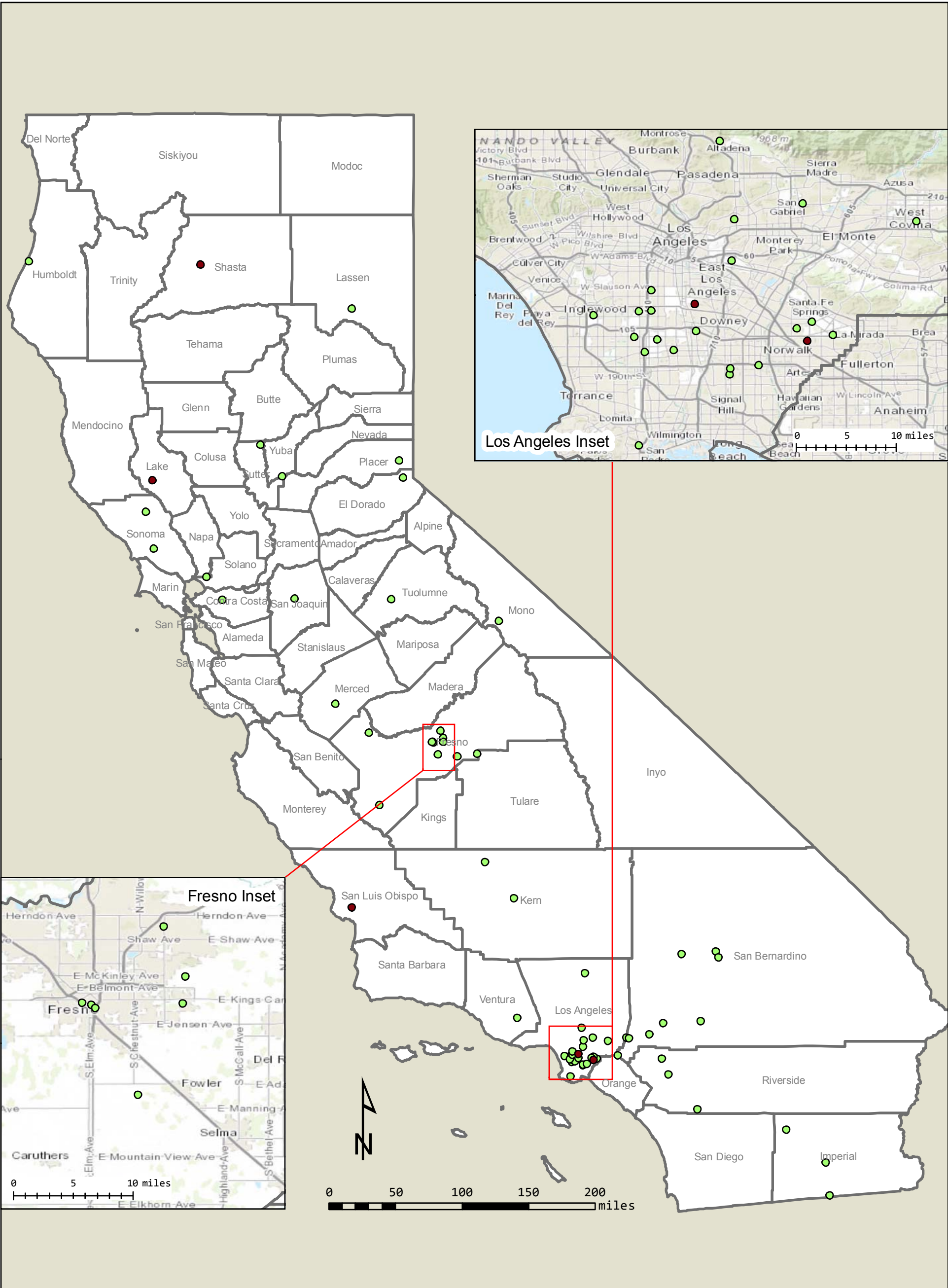
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - In Compliance (19)
- Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Site - Out of Compliance (19)
- Fresno County Boundary
- Other California County Boundary

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Notes:  
Basemap Source: Esri  
County Boundary Source:  
United States Census Bureau

**FIGURE 4**  
**Fresno County Abandoned**  
**Underground Storage Tanks--38 Sites**  
**July 2015**





- Sites with Tanks Closed in Place (9 underground storage tanks from 5 sites)
- Sites with Tanks Removed (150 underground storage tanks from 65 sites)
- California County Boundary

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Notes:  
Basemap Source (Fresno & Los Angeles maps): Esri  
County Boundary Source: United States Census Bureau

**FIGURE 5**  
**California Sites with Tanks**  
**Removed or Closed--70 Sites**  
**July 2015**